GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2629
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
ACTS IN STATUTE BOOK
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there are several Acts on the statute book that have became irrelevant;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified such Acts; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER Of STATE fOR LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS)

(a), (b) and (c): Sir, to examine the shortcomings in the laws and to remedy the situation, the Central Government had constituted a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws. The said Commission had recommended repeal of 1382 Central laws of different categories, which have been either identified as obsolete or dysfunctional or needing modification. The number of laws recommended for repeal or otherwise are as follows:

1. 166 Central Acts (including 11 PreNationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts)

2. 315 Amendment Acts.

3. 11 British Statutes still in force.

4. 17 War-time Permanent Ordinances.

5. 114 Central Acts relating to State subjects for repeal by State Governments.
6. 700 Appropriation Acts passed by Parliament. 7. 35 Reorganisation Acts.

8. 12 laws applicable to High Courts.

9. 12 Personal laws.

Out of the 1382 Acts recommended for repeal, the concerned Ministries/Departments have repealed 399 Actsand 819 Acts have been decided to be retained by concerned Ministries/Departments. In respect of 115 Acts, StateGovernments have to take action, since those Acts belong to the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule ofthe Constitution. 4 Acts have been repeated in the list of 166 Central Acts. Remaining 45 Acts needs to be repealed, which are at various stages of repealing process.